

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. application of: Roger A. BULLIVANT
For: CONNECTOR
U.S. Serial No.: 10/022,131
Confirmation No.: 2805
Filed: December 13, 2001
Group Art Unit: 3627
Examiner: To Be Assigned

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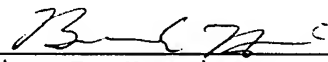
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CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Submitted herewith is a certified copy of U.K. Patent Application No. 0107598.5, filed March 27, 2001.

Priority benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119/365 for the U.K. patent application is claimed for the above-identified United States patent application.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian E. Harris
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July 11, 2002



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The Patent Office
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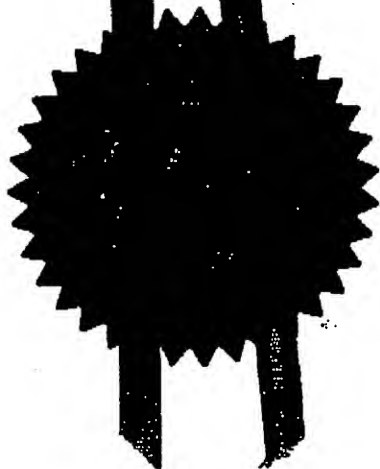
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Signed

Dated

11 April 2002



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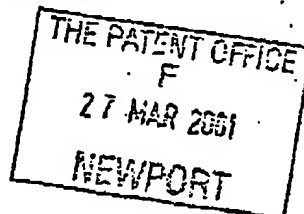
27 MAR 2001

The
Patent
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1/77

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)



The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference MPS/6945

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0107598.5

Patent Office
Patent Application
No. 0107598.5

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of Roxbury Limited
each applicant (underline all surnames) 28 Irish Town, Gibraltar.

Parents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

Gibraltar

0004935004

4. Title of the invention

Improvements in or Relating to Connectors

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

Swindell & Pearson

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

48 Friar Gate,
Derby DE1 1GY

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

00001578001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number.

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
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7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
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8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

Yes

a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or

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See note (d))

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Claim(s)	0
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Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature *Swindell + Pearson*
Swindell & Pearson

Date 26/03/01

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Mr. M.P. Skinner - 01332 367051

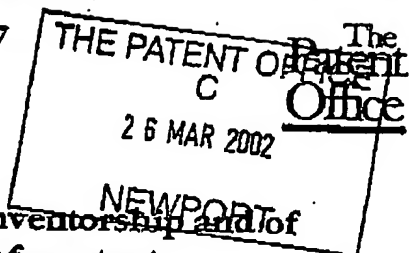
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Patents Form 1/77



7/77

**Statement of inventorship and of
right to grant of a patent**

The Patent Office

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1. Your reference MPS/7807
2. Patent application number
(if you know it) 0107598.5
3. Full name of the or of each applicant
Roxbury Ltd
4. Title of the invention
Improvements in or relating to connectors
5. State how the applicant(s) derived the right
from the inventor(s) to be granted a patent By virtue of employment of the inventor by the applicant
company.
6. How many, if any, additional Patents Forms
7/77 are attached to this form?
(see note (c))
7.
I/We believe that the person(s) named over the page (and on
any extra copies of this form) is/are the inventor(s) of the invention
which the above patent application relates to.
Signature Swindell & Pearson Date 25/03/2002
Swindell & Pearson
8. Name and daytime telephone number of
person to contact in the United Kingdom Mr. M.P. Skinner (01332) 367051

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Enter the full names, addresses and postcodes of the inventors in the boxes and underline the surnames

Roger Alfred Bullivant
Park Manor,
Newton Solney,
Burton-on-Trent,
Staffs.
DE15 0SX,
GB

5665963001

Patents ADP number (if you know it):

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Reminder

Have you signed the form?

Improvements in or relating to connectors

The present invention concerns improvements in or relating to connectors, especially but not exclusively connectors for interconnecting lengths of reinforcing steel for use in reinforced concrete members. The present invention has particular application to the interconnection of the reinforcing steel members of sectional precast concrete piles, but is not limited to this application.

There are many occasions when, in casting reinforced concrete members, one length of reinforcing steel has to be connected at its end to another length to form a continuous member. To ensure the integrity of the finished member it is essential that the tensile strength of the interconnection is at least as great as the tensile strength of the reinforcement.

Various interconnectors have been used in the past, for example, hollow threaded interconnection members have been provided and the ends of the reinforcing bar have been correspondingly threaded. In another prior example rather than using a threaded interconnection, an interconnecting sleeve has been crimped to the end of one section of reinforcing bar and connected by a thread to the other section. Where this is proved disadvantageous, the other section of bar has been fixed within the connector by epoxy resin adhesive. In other applications one length of reinforcing steel has been welded to the other.

Prior arrangements of this nature have suffered from disadvantages, not only from cost considerations but also from ease of connection and time taken to connect.

According to the present invention there is provided a connector for interconnecting one elongate member to another in end to end relationship, the connector comprising a pair of female members each having means for attaching it to the end of an elongate member and a socket coaxial with the longitudinal axis of the attachment means having a plurality of inwardly

directed protrusions from its walls, a male member having a cross-section corresponding to that of a socket, having externally directed protrusions from its walls corresponding to those of the socket and having a length greater than the depth of the socket, the protrusions being so configured to permit insertion of the male member into a socket but restricting to preventing withdrawal therefrom, the male and female members each being moulded from a plastics material.

Preferably, each of the protrusions is of saw tooth configuration with an inner face extending generally perpendicularly from the wall of the member and an outer face extending from the end of the inner face to the wall of the member and being inclined towards the wall of the member and to the outer end of the member. Preferably the protrusions are annular. Preferably, the socket and male member are circular in cross-section. Preferably the protrusions in the socket are discontinuous about the circumference of the socket.

They may extend over an arc of 45° and be spaced from neighbouring ones by 45° .

Preferably the means for attaching each female member to the end of an elongate member includes a thread adapted to accommodate a thread formed on the end of the elongate member.

Preferably, the male member is hollow.

Preferably, a diametral, longitudinally extending slot extends from each end of the male member over part of its length. The slots may extend over half the length of the male member and may be displaced relative to each other by 90° .

Preferably the plastics material from which the connector is moulded is selected from the group comprising polyphthalamide, polybutylene

terephthalate and polyamide 6.6. Preferably the plastics material is polyphthalamide. Preferably the plastics material is reinforced by the addition of glass fibres thereto. Preferable the reinforcement forms between 45% and 55% by weight of the mixture.

The female members may be moulded in two corresponding halves, each provided with mechanical snap fittings to hold the parts together on assembly.

Further according to the present invention, there is provided a reinforced concrete sectional pile comprising longitudinally extending steel reinforcing bar moulded into a concrete pile section, each end of the reinforcing bar being provided with a female member attached thereto, each female member including a socket coaxial with the longitudinal axis of the reinforcing member and upwardly directed protrusions from its walls, a male member being provided for insertion into each socket, each male member having a cross-section corresponding to that of the socket, outwardly directed protrusions from its walls corresponding to those of the socket and a length between the depth of a socket and twice the depth of a socket, the male and female members being formed from a plastics material.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Fig. 1 is a transverse sectional elevation of a female member of a connector;

Fig. 2 is an elevation of one end of the female member;

Fig. 3 is an elevation of the other end of the female member;

Fig. 4 is an elevation of a male member of the connector;

Fig. 5 is an end elevation of one end of the male member; and

Fig. 6 is an end elevation of the other end of the male member

The connector of the present embodiment is intended primarily for use in connecting one reinforced concrete pile section in end to end relationship with its neighbouring sections.

Reinforced concrete sectional piles normally comprise a central steel reinforcing bar cast into the concrete. The pile section may have square, circular or any other suitable cross-section. A female member of a pile section connector is fitted to each end of the reinforcing bar prior to moulding the concrete pile. The female member, as illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3, has a first attachment socket 10 at its, in use, inner end, the attachment socket having an internal thread 12 to accommodate the helical protrusions formed on the outer surface of standard reinforcing bars. Four radially extending strengthening ribs 14 extend from the outer surface of the attachment socket 10. A further circular cross-section socket 16 is provided at the other end of the female member. Protrusions 18 having a saw tooth configuration project inwardly from the socket walls. Each protrusion has an inner face 20 which is generally perpendicular to the socket wall and an outer face which is inclined inwardly with respect to the entrance to the socket. The protrusions do not extend continuously around the internal wall of the socket but comprise four 45° arcs spaced from each other by 45° wall sections having no protrusion therefrom.

The female member is moulded as a single member from a thermoplastics polymer, namely polyphthalamide. The polymer is filled with between 45 and 55% of glass fibre reinforcement to enhance its mechanical properties.

The connector includes also an initially separate male member which is also moulded as a single component from glass fibre reinforced polyphthalamide. As illustrated in Figs. 4 to 6, the male member comprises a hollow cylinder 30 having a short central portion 32 with no protrusions therefrom and sections 34 extending from each end thereof, each having

protrusions 36 of a configuration corresponding to the configuration of the protrusions 18 from the socket. The protrusions 36 extend around the entire circumference of the male member which is provided with two diametral slots 38 extending longitudinally therealong from each end to a point beyond the central portion 32. The slot 38 extending from one end of the male member is displaced by 90° relative to that extending from the other.

In use, two pile sections to be joined are brought together and a male member is forced into the socket of the female member cast into the end of one of the pile section. The second pile section is then placed in end to end relationship with the first pile section such that part of the male member protruding from the end of the first pile section is inserted into the socket of the second pile section. The pile driving operation then causes full penetration of the male member into the sockets and an end to end abutment of the pile sections.

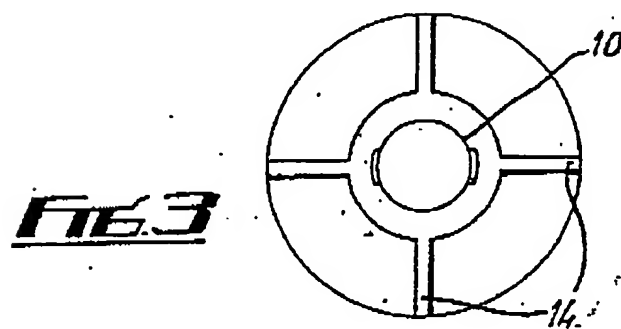
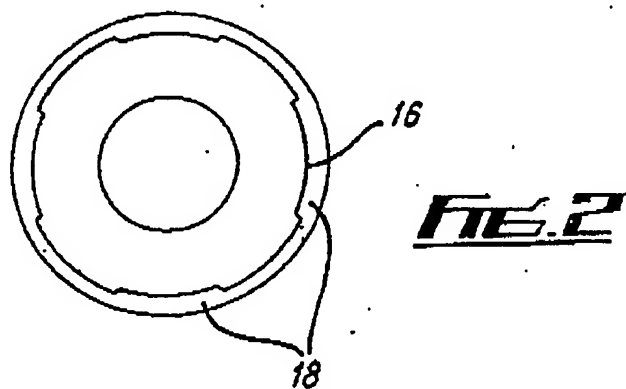
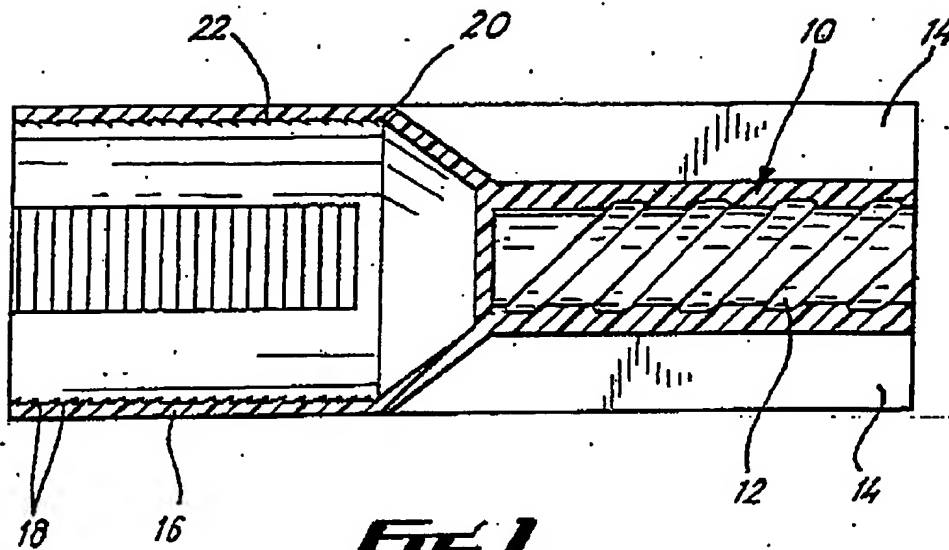
Insertion of the male member is permitted owing to the saw tooth configuration of the protrusions which thereafter prevent withdrawal of the male member from the sockets and provide an interconnection between the reinforcing member of the first section and the reinforcing member of the second section, the tensile strength of which is at least as great that of the reinforcing member itself.

Various modifications can be made without departing from the scope of the invention, for example the female member, for ease of manufacture, can be manufactured from two halves created along a central longitudinal plane. Interconnection means in the form of mechanical snap fits can be provided on each section. The invention has been described in relation to sectional piles which comprise a single central reinforcing bar, but other arrangements could be envisaged. In particular, a plurality of reinforcing bars could be used, each connected in the manner of the invention to the corresponding reinforcing bar of the next pile section. In one possible arrangement, square pile sections would be provided with four reinforcing bars.

Alternative plastics materials can be used to form the male and female member. Suitable materials are polybutylene terephthalate and polyamide 6.6. Both may be reinforced with glass fibre.

In another modification, the protrusions from the walls of the socket can be continuous around the periphery of the socket.

Whilst endeavouring in the foregoing specification to draw attention to those features of the invention believed to be of particular importance it should be understood that the Applicant claims protection in respect of any patentable feature or combination of features hereinbefore referred to and/or shown in the drawings whether or not particular emphasis has been placed thereon.



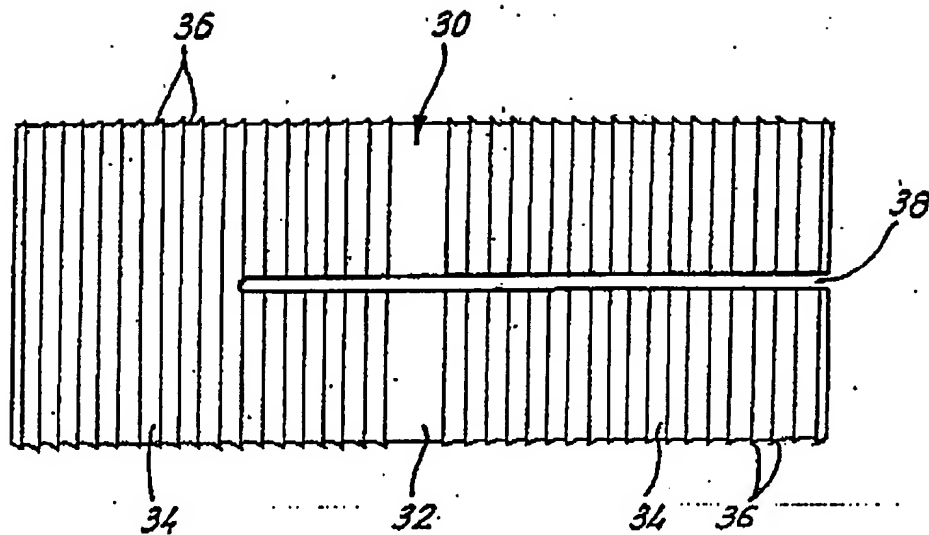


FIG. 4

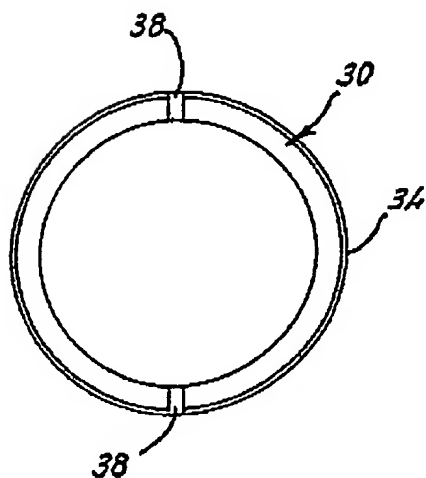


FIG. 5

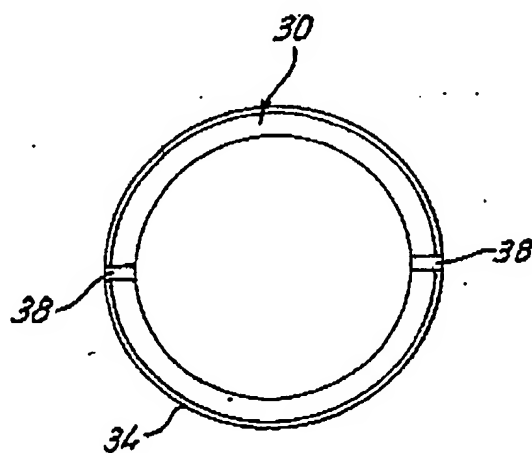


FIG. 6

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INVENTOR: Roger A. BULLIVANT

SERIAL NO.: 10/022,131

CLIENT NO.: 11198

DUE: N/A

FILE: 05201

MAILED: 07/11/2002

TITLE: CONNECTOR

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